

Message Text

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION NATO

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. WEEK-END PAPERS FRONTPAGED MIDEAST DEVELOP-
MENTS; SATURDAY NYTIMES FRONTPAGED US AND THREE ALLIES TRY
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TO HEAL RIFT; BALTSUN FRONTPAGED ISRAELI DRAIN ON US ARMS
MAY BOOST MILITARY OUTLAYS. MONDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE
KISSINGER LEAVES FOR MIDEAST TALKS. WASHPOST ON STRIKE
SINCE FRIDAY. MONDAY NYTIMES HAS EDITORIAL ON MURFAAMCE;

SOME OTHERS ON NATO RELATIONS.

1A. FRIDAY WASHSTAR HAD INSIDE VIENNA STORY, US READIES ARMS CUT PROPOSALS, ALSO BLOCS WRANGLE OVER UN FORCE COMPOSITION. SUNDAY PAPERS HAD SOME PIECES ON US-NATO. MONDAY BALTSUN REPORTS SCHLESINGER LEFT FOR NATO MEETING.

1B. FRIDAY WASHPOST PAPEETE TAHITI REPORTED FRENCH ENGINEERS DRILLING TUNNELS FOR 1976 UNDERGROUND TESTS. SUNDAY WASHSTAR HAD LONGISH PIECE, ISRAEL PRESSES US FOR HIGHLY SECRET WEAPONS FOR FIRST TIME. MONDAY PAPERS HAVE STORIES ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS, ALSO JACKSON WARNS OF SOVIET THREAT IN MIDEAST.

2. EUROPE. VIENNA AP IN FRIDAY WASHSTAR REPORTED US AND ALLIES ARE PREPARING PROPOSALS THAT WOULD HELP PREVENT A SURPRISE ATTACK ACROSS EAST-WEST BORDER IN EUROPE; DETAILS MAY BE PRESENTED WHEN MBFR GETS DOWN TO WORK. KEY PROPOSALS, SAYS AP, WOULD BIND EITHER SIDE TO NOTIFY THE OTHER WHEN IT IS PLANNING LARGE TROOP MOVEMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE; AND WESTERN PROPOSALS INCLUDE: EXCHANGE OF OBSERVERS AT MANEUVERS, AP ADDING THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT THE OTHER FELLOW'S ARMY, THE LESS HE IS LIKELY TO USE IT AGAINST YOU; IF HE PROMISES TO INVITE YOU TO A MANEUVER AND THEN DOESN'T, YOU KNOW THAT SOMETHING IS UP, ONE OBSERVER SAID; WITHDRAWALS OF DESIGNATED FORCES TO DESIGNATED BASES FARTHER AWAY FROM THE BORDER; VERIFICATION THAT AGREEMENTS ARE BEING OBSERVED; INSPECTION HAS BEEN PAST PROBLEM, SAYS AP, BUT RUSSIA US NOW TOLERATE EACH OTHER'S SPY SATELLITES AND MIGHT NOW MAKE PROMISES NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THEM.

2A. FRIDAY WASHSTAR WARD OTTAWA REPORTED AMBASSADOR YAKOVELEV TOLD SHARP RUSSIA HAD NO OBJECTION TO CANADA'S PARTICIPATION AS SUCH IN UN MIDEAST FORCE BUT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT NATO PARTICIPATION WITHOUT PARTICIPATION FROM A WARSAW PACT NATION. WARD SAYS NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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UNSC SOUGHT TO BREAK US-SOVIET DEADLOCK BY SUGGESTING THAT GHANA, LIBERIA, INDONESIA, NEPAL, YUGOSLAVIA, PANAMA, PERU AND URUGUAY SHOULD JOIN UNEF CONTINGENT BUT US WAS SAID TO BE OPPOSED TO YUGOSLAVIA WHICH HAS BEEN OUTSPOKEN SUPPORTER OF EGYPT. EARLIER A UN OFFICIAL TOLD AN AP REPORTER THERE COULD BE AN ARRANGEMENT TO INCLUDE ROMANIA PLUS EITHER CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND OR HUNGARY, ALONG WITH CANADA PLUS BELGIUM OR ITALY. WARD ADDS OTHER SOURCES INDICATED SCALI WAS STILL HOLDING OUT AGAINST CZECHOSLOVAKIA POLAND HUNGARY BUT US WAS INCLINED TO ACCEPT ROMANIA BECAUSE IT HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL BUT MALIK OBJECTED TO INCLUDING ROMANIA BECAUSE IT DOESN'T FOLLOW SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY LINE.

2B. SATURDAY NYTIMES BINDER WASHINGTON REPORTED US AND THREE NATO ALLIES EXCHANGED CONCILIATORY MESSAGES DURING PRECEDING WEEK, ALL DESIGNED TO PATCH UP DIFFERENCES THAT HAD ARISEN OVER AMERICAN POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN MIDEAST, LATEST BEING NIXON LETTER TO BRANDT IN WHICH HE PROMISED FULLER CONSULTATION IN FUTURE. BINDER ADDS KISSINGER CALLED IN NATO AMBASSADORS TO BRIEF THEM ON HIS TRIP TO ARAB COUNTRIES AND CURRENT MIDEAST SITUATION. HOWEVER, BINDER REPORTED, A TOP US OFFICIAL SAID THAT RIFT REMAINED SERIOUS AND INVOLVED FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

OF THE ALLIANCE, THIS OFFICIAL CITING FACT MANY ALLIES FAILED THE US IN CRITICAL MOMENTS ON THREE COUNTS: REFUSAL TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL, REFUSAL TO PROMOTE CEASE-FIRE PROPOSALS AT UNSC, REFUSAL IN NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL TO RESPOND TO AMERICAN REQUESTS THAT THEY JOINTLY CHILL THEIR TRADE AND POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH SOVIET BLOC AND YUGOSLAVIA BECAUSE OF THE PRO-ARAB ACTIONS OF THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS, THE OFFICIAL ADDING: QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER WE ARE PARTNERS OR NOT, WHETHER WE ARE JUST PARTNERS FOR THEIR BENEFIT IN NATO, AS THE EUROPEANS SEEM TO THINK, AS DURING MIDEAST WAR THEY WERE RUNNING FOR COVER, RUNNING AWAY FROM US, AND THIS REINFORCED THE CONCEPT THAT IT IS NOT A PARTNERSHIP; WE TRIED TO PERSUADE THEM THAT IF ISRAEL WENT DOWN THE DRAIN IT WOULD CHANGE THE POWER BALANCE AGAINST NATO AND GIVE THE RUSSIANS A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE; THIS WAS THE CONFRONTATION UNCLASSIFIED

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PART OF IT. BINDER ADDS SENT. KENNEDY ISSUED STATEMENT ACCUSING ADMINISTRATION OF HEEDLESSLY CREATING A CRISIS IN ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

2C. SATURDAY WASHSTAR SHERMAN SAID SCHLESINGER WAS DEPARTING FOR NATO MEETING WHICH MIGHT TURN INTO A FENCE-MENDING MISSION WITHIN WESTERN ALLIANCE; ALTHOUGH MEETING CONCERNS NUCLEAR PLANNING SCHLESINGER WILL DISCUSS LACK OF EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN POSITION AND PRINCIPAL TARGET IN WEST GERMANY, AS A SENIOR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO REFUSED TO BE IDENTIFIED SAID US MAY BE FORCED TO RE-LOCATE EQUIPMENT AND MEN NOW IN GERMANY UNLESS SOME UNDERSTANDING CAN BE REACHED ABOUT AMERICA'S ABILITY TO USE ITS FORCES AND EQUIPMENT IN AN OUTSIDE CRISIS. SHERMAN REPORTED HE WAS HOPEFUL THESE FAMILY QUARRELS WOULD FORCE NATO MEMBERS TO LOOK HARD AT THE DEFICIENCIES IN THE ALLIANCE RATHER THAN ENGAGE IN A GAME OF TRANS-ATLANTIC CAT-CALLING. OFFICIAL SAID, ACCORDING SHERMAN, US HAD CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH EUROPEAN ALLIES BEGINNING OCTOBER 10 THROUGH NATO MILITARY COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS, SHERMAN ADDING THAT THIS OFFICIAL--CONTRARY TO KISSINGER'S REPORTED DISGUST WITH NATO--SAID NO BROADSIDE CRITICISM

SHOULD BE LEVELED AGAINST ALLIANCE AS WHOLE, ADDING THAT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS HAD NOW COME TO REALIZE THAT SUBSTANCE OF AMERICAN POSITION AGAINST SOVIET UNION WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EUROPEAN FEARS OF LOSING PRECIOUS OIL SUPPLIES.

2D. SUNDAY NYTIMES BINDER HAD REVIEW PIECE MENTIONING NIXON ADMINISTRATION BELIEF THAT IF EUROPEANS HAD JOINED US IN CONCERTED STAND OF OIL CONSUMERS THEY MIGHT HAVE

PREVENTED THE ARABS FROM IMPOSING PRODUCTION CUTS AND

SELECTIVE EMBARGOES, BUT BINDER STRESSES ONE SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL SAID ADMINISTRATION HAD DELIBERATELY EXPLOITED MIDEAST CRISIS TO MAKE PUBLIC ITS ARGUMENT FOR STRENGTHENING THE ALLIANCE--AN ARGUMENT THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS HAD GREETED SKEPTICALLY, AND THEY ARE ALSO LEARY OF INCLUDING WORD PARTNERSHIP IN A NEW DECLARATION FEARING ITS EFFECT ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF A POSSIBLE
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FUTURE UNION OF EUROPEAN STATES. BINDER ADDS THAT DIFFERENCE IN US APPROACH MAY ALSO EMERGE AT CSCE IN GENEVA AND IN VIENNA SINCE AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE AFRAID WEST EUROPEANS MAY AGREE TO MOSCOW'S DEMAND FOR A GRAND SUMMIT WHICH WASHINGTON THINKS WOULD BE A PROPAGANDA SPECTACULAR WITHOUT REAL SUBSTANCE, AND ON TROOP REDUCTIONS WASHINGTON WANTS CUTS IN JUST US AND SOVIET FORCES IN INITIAL PHASE WHILE EUROPEANS, WITH THEIR BUDGET DIFFICULTIES, WANT BROADER CUTS. BINDER SAYS MOST EUROPEANS DON'T EXPECT INTERDEPENDENCE WITH AMERICA TO BE LOOSENED IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND ARE SURPRISED AT DOCUMENT-MINDEDNESS OF EX-EUROPEANS LIKE KISSINGER.

2E. MONDAY BALTSUN HAS WASHINGTON AP REPORT

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